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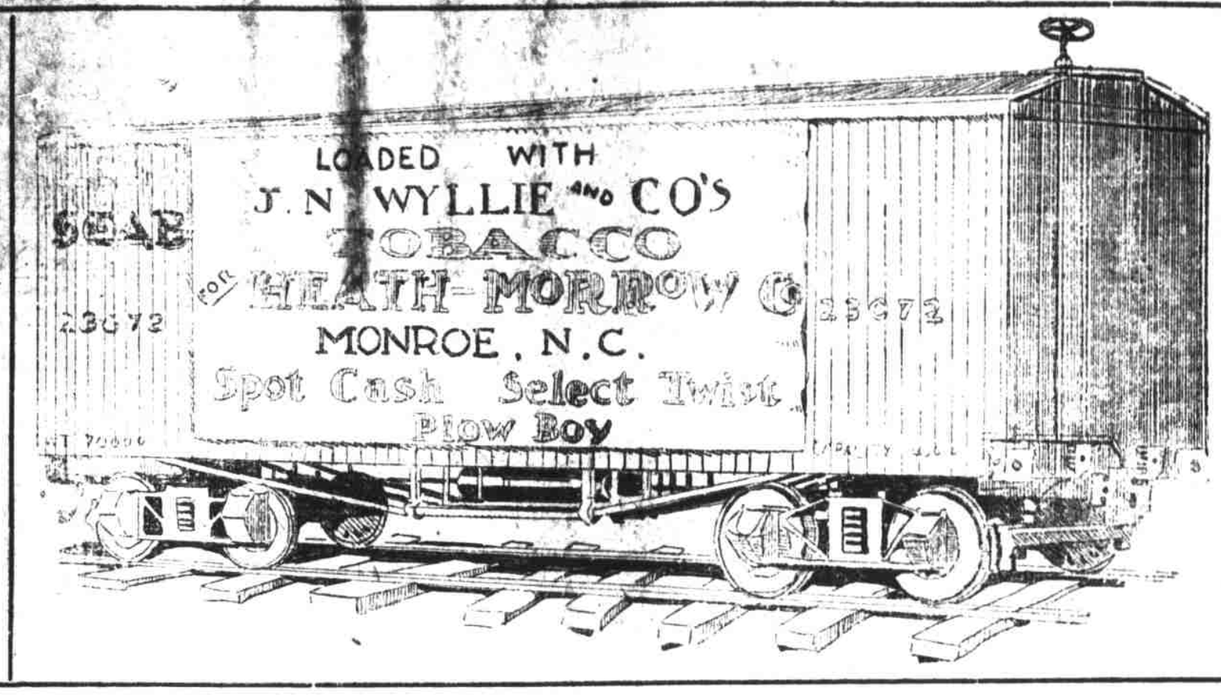

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MODERN RIFLE SHOOTING.

HOW HIGH POWER IS SECURED.

An Exposition of Principles Governing the Use of the High Explosive, the Quick Twist Rifling and the Long, Jacketed Bullet—Two Deviations From the Straight Line Encountered in All Rifle Shooting—Tendency of the Match Rifle and Military Rifle to Approach the Same Type.

Correspondence of The Observer.

New York, Nov. 11.—Target shooting as a sport has been more or less sharply divided into match rifle shooting and military rifle shooting. The points in which the match rifle differs from the military are, its lighter trigger pull, finer sights, and better finish; and, in addition, various departures from military styles are allowed in the way of special attachments, buttplates, heavier weight of barrel, etc. The match rifle also is developed with accuracy and its chief aim, and accuracy at the particular distance it is to be used; while the military rifle has to be adapted to all ranges, and be strongly built and serviceable under adverse conditions, even if at the expense of some accuracy.

In view of these considerations, it is scarcely to be wondered at that the target rifle developed with the sole object of shooting from the off-hand position at 200 yards, as in cogue by the German-American "(Schuetzen) clubs, should differ so much from the long range match and military rifle. The schuetzen rifle has changed but little in many years, and in its present form is probably as near perfection for its purpose as it is possible to get. Most of the modern schuetzen rifles still use black powder, and in the finest American makes the bullet is pushed down from the muzzle as in the old muzzle-loading rifles. They are extremely accurate, and the shooting is generally done on sheltered ranges; so that this kind of shooting brings the game down to merely one of skillful holding.

On the other hand, the long range match rifle has of late years approached more and more closely to the military, so much so that most of the match rifles now in use in England are merely military rifles fitted with fine target sights. Skill in shooting at the long ranges, whether with military or match rifles, involves not only good holding, but also a knowledge of the effects of disturbing factors such as changes of light, wind, barometric pressure, temperature, etc.

It must not be supposed, however, that schuetzen rifle shooting is of no value to riflemen who aspire to honors with the military or long range rifle. It has the advantage of using cheap ammunition, it is generally done on ranges provided with facilities that insure comfort to the shooter during even the coldest and most disagreeable weather, and it is the best possible training for the fine holding. Therefore it is far better for the rifleman who would keep in practice to shoot 50 or 100 shots at 200 yards, say once a week or two weeks during the winter with a schuetzen rifle than to abandon the game altogether during cold weather. There are a large number of civilian riflemen who confine themselves almost entirely to this kind of shooting, and who are nevertheless very well posted and skillful, riflemen, able to take up other branches of rifle shooting at short notice; and their skill in holding, and intimate knowledge of many of the technicalities of the rifle learned by long and careful practice with their own weapons certainly put them far in the lead of the novice, no matter what other branch of rifle shooting that adopt.

But it is in long range shooting, undoubtedly, that the rifleman finds the highest development of the sport. And in late years, since the advent of the modern smokeless powder rifle of high power and small calibre, it is gratifying to note, in our American as well as in the British weapons, that the military and match rifle have approached very near to each other. In the old black powder days, the match rifle with its paper patched bullet, heavy charge of powder, and necessity of cleaning after each shot was a far different weapon than the military rifle. In those days, to attempt to shoot 1,000 yards with a military rifle would have been considered the height of folly. But now there is little difference in the scores made with match and military rifles at these long ranges. Indeed, our Krag, when a good barrel can be selected and when the drag is removed from the trigger pull, is in the opinion of many expert riflemen fully capable at the mid and long ranges of holding its own against the finest match rifles that can be produced. There are few target sights that afford better aiming than the 1901 model Krag sight, and while it is true that the target sights as a rule are further apart and adapted to the back position, the modern high power rifle seems to shoot so much better from the prone position as to make than compensate for any slight advantage the target sights might thus gain over our military sight. A glance over the records of those long range matches of recent years that have been open to both military and match rifles will show that in 90 per cent. of the matches the Krag has come out victorious. Indeed, the remarkable development of accuracy in the American high power rifle within the past few years has not been due to any particular refinement in the weapon or sights, but solely to the improvement in the bullet and in the more uniform measuring of powder charges.

To deal understandingly with the differences that have taken place in rifles since the adoption of the high power principle, it will be necessary to look a little into the principles governing all rifles. A rifle may be regarded as an implement embodying all the resources of science and art in the effort to throw a projectile far, swiftly and accurately. The projectile is acted upon by the natural forces precisely as is a stone when thrown from the hand, the differences, due to the higher velocity of the bullet, being in degree and not in kind. The mystery that in the minds of the uninitiated is supposed to attend the flight of a bullet is chiefly due to the fact that the bullet cannot under ordinary circumstances be observed in its flight and its motion watched, like the stone. The first thing that may be taken as true of all projectiles, no matter how thrown, is that they fall toward the earth as soon as the support is removed from them, just the same as though they were not projectiles. But even while they are falling, the energy applied is driving them ahead. From this it will be clear that no weapon, however powerful, can drive a bullet so fast that it will go in a straight line—it immediately begins to fall, as soon as it leaves the barrel, unless the latter has been directed upward to some extent: in which case, besides its forward motion, it will rise until the upward force also imparted to it has been expended, and then begin to fall according to the well-known law of falling bodies—slowly at first, but faster the further it falls. The flight of a bullet, therefore, is always in a curved line.

It does not seem as though air would offer much resistance to the passage of a body through it, but anyone who has ridden a bicycle knows that it does. Moreover, the resistance of the air increase much more than proportionately with the speed of the moving body, for if the speed be doubled, the resistance will be more than quadrupled. The air, therefore, becomes a much more potent factor in retarding the progress of a bullet than of the stone thrown from the hand, even though, weight for weight, the bullet presents less sectional area. The forward motion of the projectile, therefore, will become slower the further it travels, while its falling speed is continually increased owing to the laws of gravity; and for this reason the further it goes, the more curved will be its flight, until at last it drops to the ground.

It is evident that the greater weight a bulet has in proportion to its sectional area, the less will be the degree of the resistance opposed to it by the air, other things being equal. An athlete could not throw a cork as far as a boy could a piece of lead of the same size and shape. Therefore the heaviest available material—lead—is used in the manufacture of the rifle bullets. For the same reason, the modern long bullet mountains its velocity much better than the old round bullet used in the musket and early muzzle loading rifle.

But when a bullet is made longer than its diameter, some means must be taken to insure its flying in the direction of its long-axis point on. This is the object of the spiral grooves that are cut on the inside of a rifle barrel, for it is found that if the bullet be caused to rotate with sufficient rapidity on its long axis, it will not turn sideways during its flight. The degree of this twist in the rifling is called its "pitch." The longer the bullet in proportion to its diameter, the quicker the pitch of the rifling must be: if the bullet is too long for a given pitch of rifling to handle, this will be shown by the bullet going through the target in a sideways or tipping position—in the parlance of the rifleman, it "keyholes." It is necessary for the bullet to be kept point on from consideration of accuracy, as well as to maintain its velocity.

When we increase the proportionate length of our bullets and use a quicker twist of rifling, it becomes necessary to harden the bullet by the addition of tin or antimony, so that it will hold on to the rifling and not be blown straight through the barrel without following the grooves—stripping, riflemen call it. But when we reach a certain point in lengthening the bullet and increasing the pitch of the rifling, no alloy of lead is sufficient to give good results. Therefore, in the modern high power rifle, the bullet is made up of a core of lead, with a jacket of very tough metal, generally an alloy of copper and nickel; and the tough jacket holds on to the rifling so well that we are enabled to fire charges of highly explosive compounds, giving nearly double the velocity that it was possible to obtain with the old black powder rifle. The modern high power rifle is, therefore one which fires a jacketed bullet very long in proportion to its diameter, by means of a charge of smokeless powder several times as strong as black powder, with nearly double the velocity obtained with lead bullet and black powder; and as a result of the long bullet and high and well sustained velocity, the curve described by the bullet is much nearer a straight line—its trajectory is flatter"—its penetration greater, and its range longer.

There is another deviation laterally from the straight line shown by a rifle bullet and more pronounced in rifles having a quick twist; this is called "drift." It is a lateral movement due to the spin of the bullet on its long axis. As the bullet is constantly falling in its flight, the under surface meets with more air resistance than the upper, and the bullet therefore tends to roll laterally on this denser air: so that a rifle having a right-hand direction to its pitch of rifling will cause a bullet to drift to the right, while one with a left-hand twist will drift to the left. Correction of this drift needs to be made on the sights of match rifles, but on the military sight of our national arm—the Krag—the correction is made automatically when the elevation is changed.

WALTER G. HUDSON, M. D.
President Manhattan Rifle and Revolver Association.

ART A FACTOR IN SOCIETY.

No Subject About Which There is Greater Confusion Than Art, in the Popular Mind It Being Regarded as Something Imported From France and Suitable for People of Leisure and Wealth.

Following is a portion of a recent lecture delivered before the University convocation at Madison, Wis., by Prof. Jerome Dowd:

"There is no subject about which there is greater confusion than that respecting the meaning and value of art. In the popular mind it is something imported from France and suitable for people of leisure and wealth. Many artists themselves look upon their work as a mere expression of life and nature regarding it as non-moral and believing that it fulfills its mission in representing whatever is true to nature. Critics and text-books often vaguely define it as some kind of manifestation of the aesthetic life; while to others it is an affair of kodak pictures bric-a-brac and sofa pillows.

"Most people of modern times have confused their conception of art with their conception of beauty and luxury. Appreciation of beauty may exist without any appreciation of art, and mere love of beauty is no particular credit to anyone. All people and according to Darwin many animals, apprehend and love beauty. The insects are largely responsible for our beautiful and sweet smelling flowers. Peacocks and barnyard fowls seem to think as much of dress as our modern society people. The cat shampoos his hair and even reptiles change their styles of dress with the changes of the season.

"In the opinion of some writers the dark races are more aesthetic than the white races, and much may be said in support of this view. Africa, for example, is a land of predominant aesthetic life. The people powder and paint their bodies. They carry their color pigments and perfume boxes dangling to their belts. They tattoo the body into figures representing stars, trees, flowers, snakes and lizards.

"They wear ornaments suspended from their ears, noses and lips. Mr. Baker saw on the upper Nile two old women quarreling over some broken pieces of a thermometer with which to ornament their lips. The Inkonka tribe knock out two of the lower teeth in order to insert in the lower lip a silver ornament. Some tribes wear brass ear rings a foot in diameter. The New Zealanders bore holes in their ears and enlarge them by stretching. These holes serve the purpose of our pockets. Feathers, sticks and bodkins were carried in them. Some Zulus visiting in London carried their cigars in this manner. In some cases the lobes are so large that a man can thrust his arms through them. These facts, I fear, seem to give some credulity to the statement of an ancient geographer that a tribe in Africa had ears so large that they lay down on one ear and covered themselves with the other.

"Birds, feathers and bracelets of iron, copper and cord are worn in rich profusion. It is said that the total weight of iron and copper rings worn by an African on State occasions will sometimes amount to 50 pounds. These rings worn by the aristocracy often get so hot that an attendant has to go along with a water-pot to cool them off. The Africans surpass all people in the tonsorial art. Among some tribes the hair is shaved off and the head shines like a peeled onion. Among others the hair stands up like a hay stack or Eiffel tower; and still among others it is twisted into knots and divided like all Gaul into three parts.

"Stanley observed among the cannibals in the heart of Africa that the oars of their canoes were beautifully ornamented with carved ivory. Thus it is that the Africans are everywhere devoted to the beautiful. Their standards differ from ours but their great interest in beauty is unmistakable.

"Gobineau thought that the Mongolians, the Semitic peoples and the Greeks and Romans received their aesthetic aptitudes through an infusion of negro blood. Without accepting or discussing this theory, it is sufficient to say that love of beauty is not a peculiarity of the cultured races.

"Love of beauty and love of art are by no means synonymous. Many people thoroughly appreciate beauty who are quite indifferent to art. They mistake the symbol of art, which is beauty, for the substance which is neither form nor color nor material object. Art is an idea or feeling communicated through the medium of beauty. Every piece of art must necessarily convey some feeling or idea aside from the pleasure effect of its form, otherwise it is not art, but merely a pleasing object as a diamond or flower. Beauty is related to art just as the alphabet to language. Language is an embodiment of thought; the letters of it are only the instrument of technique. The value of beauty depends altogether upon the use we make of it. It may ruin as well as elevate us.

"The question arises, how may we distinguish good from bad art? If art is the communication of feeling, there may be as many different kinds of art as different kinds of feelings, good, bad and indifferent. I would say that all good art conveys one or more of such feelings as love faith, hope, reverence, aspiration, patience, tranquility, mirth gratitude, humility, charity and pity. These with the variety of ideas and situations which emphasize and popularize them, mark the domain and constitute the themes of all great art. Examples of such art are the Psalms of David, The Pyramids, Venus de Milo, Dante's Inferno, Angelo's sculpture of Moses, St. Marks Cathedral, Raphael's Madonna of the Chair, Ruben's Descent from the Cross, Romeo, Juliet, Les Miserables and Mendelssohn's marches.

"It is the triumph of these true feelings over their opposites which constitutes progress in the individual, in the race. On the contrary, it is the gilding of the opposite of these virtues and the substitution of beauty for them which cause corruption and retrogression. Therefore all good art is moral and all bad art is immoral.

"The time has come when we should make a beginning towards the elimination of bad art, not by means of a censor or by law, but of education. Along some lines we are exceedingly fastidious. We pay much attention to sanitation. We have extensive sewage systems, carts, brooms and furnaces for disposing of offensive and dangerous refuse. We wage a great war against microbes and are forever disinfecting and fumigating. We are very particular about our food. We have meat, vegetable and milk inspectors and drastic laws against adulteration. Would it not be equally rational to demand sanitary art?"

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY

IS PLEASANT TO TAKE.

The finest quality of granulated loaf sugar is used in the manufacture of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and the roots used in its preparation give it a flavor similar to maple syrup, making it quite pleasant to take. Mr. W. L. Roderick, of Poolesville, Md., in speaking of this remedy, says: "I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy with my children for several years and can truthfully say it is the best preparation of the kind I know of. The children like it and it has an injurious effect. For sale by H. H. Jordan & Co.

GOV. BURRINGTON'S CAREER

ZEALOUS FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

This Turbulent and Often Oppressive Ruler Nevertheless Active in Promoting the General Welfare—His Achievements Notable in Building Roads, Encouraging Trade, Exploring Territory Suitable for Development, Obtaining Concessions From the Lords Proprietors and Advertising the Colony Like a Real Estate Agent—The Founder of the Cape Fear Section's Prosperity.

Written for The Observer.

So far the reader has been shown but one side of Burrington's character. He has been portrayed as obstinate, selfish, passionate, revengeful and tyrannical. We have seen him lauded by his friends as having all the virtues of an Alfred; we have seen him denounced by his enemies as possessing all the devilries of a Nero. We have seen him subordinating and sacrificing friends and foes alike to enhance his own power and wealth, and to crush his enemies. The sketch, if dropped here, would be incomplete. Turn the page and we see a better side to this versatile man.

This other side will reveal him as an executive zealous for the welfare of his province, devising many wise measures and, as far as lay within his power, putting them into execution with decided energy and ability. Whenever his mind could shake itself free of personal grievances, it rested intently on the interests of the province.

"His official papers," says Col. Saunders, "are well written and show an intimate knowledge of the country and the measures best adapted to promote its development."

At the time Burrington came to North Carolina to begin his second administration, the colony was on the verge of a dangerous crisis. Sir Richard Everard's administration had been a complete failure. Riots flourished; laws languished, anarchy was raising its head. Public improvements were neglected; private enterprise unencouraged; administrative problems left unsolved. Upon Burrington's arrival with the king's commission in his pocket, he received a letter from the facetious Col. William Byrd, of Virginia. "I think, by some samples I have known of that country" (North Carolina), he wrote, "it would cost a pretty deal of trouble to bring it into order, and a less spirit than yours will never be able to effect it. People accustomed to live without law or gospel will with great reluctance submit to either * * * In the meantime I wish you all the success in the world in bringing the chaos into form and reducing the anarchy into a regular government. In doing so you will deserve to have your statue erected or, which perhaps is better, to have your salary doubled."

To this difficult task the new Governor set himself with his usual energy and imprudence. By his short administration for the Lords Proprietors he had become familiar with the country and with the people. Knowing the task before him was difficult, he had collected in his province a number of men on whom he could rely, men of ability and energy, men who had proved themselves capable of managing affairs in the province, men who had shown themselves capable of managing affairs in the province, men who had shown themselves capable of managing affairs in the province, men who had shown